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BISHOP ALLIN MEETS WITH SENATE EPISCOPALIANS

WASHINGTON -- Six United States Senators who are Episcopalians met with Presiding Bishop John M. Allin for lunch and conversation at the Capitol building here on May 19. The gathering was the first in a series of small group meetings the Presiding Bishop hopes to have with members of the Congress.

Meeting with Bishop Allin were Senators Harry F. Byrd, Jr. (Ind-VA), John H. Chafee (R-RI), John C. Danforth (R-MO), J. James Exon (D-NE), Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) and John W. Warner (R-VA). Senator Danforth was host at the luncheon. The Rev. Edward L. R. Elson, Senate chaplain, was a guest at the luncheon and participated in the discussion. Chaplain Elson had arranged for Bishop Allin to be introduced on the Senate floor by Vice President Walter Mondale and to open the regular business session with a prayer.

Bishop Allin told the senators that he had not come to Washington as a lobbyist nor had he come with a list of favors to ask of them. He said he had suggested the series of meetings because of his concern for the senators as they carry out their leadership responsibilities as elected officials and as members of the Church.

The Presiding Bishop invited the senators to contact him at any time he might be of help to them.

"I hope that we will come to know one another as members of the same Church and the same country. If we know one another, we will be able to communicate better and work better together in our respective service roles," said Bishop Allin.

The senators brought up a number of concerns that were discussed by the group.

The meeting was arranged at Bishop Allin's request by the Rev. William Weiler, the Episcopal Church's staff person in Washington, D.C. Father Weiler attended the meeting, as did Woodrow Carter, the Rev. Charles Cesaretti and the Rev. Richard J. Anderson of the Episcopal Church Center staff.

During his visit to Washington, Bishop Allin also met with the Rev. Robert Maddox, Religious Affairs Officer on the White House staff, and with the Rev. James D. Ford, chaplain to the House of Representatives.

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Note: We hope to include a photograph in next week's mailing.

